

Southern Methodist University
Perkins Regional Course of Study School
Summer 2024

522 Theology In The Contemporary Church
Pre-Class Assignments 2024

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Course Description

This course will survey significant individuals, movements, and theological developments from the nineteenth century to the present. Our considerations will approach theological inquiry and dialogue from a pastoral and ecumenical perspective.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

1. Understand the origins and theological tenets of liberalism from the early 19th century to the present, including its influence on ecumenism and process theology.
2. Understand and distinguish reactions to liberalism, including Fundamentalism, Neo-Orthodoxy, and Evangelicalism.
3. Understand the historical development and theology of the Holiness Movement, Pentecostalism, and the Charismatic Movement.
4. Understand the origins and tenets of Liberation and Contextual theologies.
5. Assess challenges and implications for Christian ministries today within particular and global contexts.

Required Textbooks

1. Migliore, Daniel L. *Faith Seeking Understanding: An Introduction to Christian Theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2014.
2. Caputo, John D. *What Would Jesus Deconstruct?: The Good News of Postmodernism for the Church*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Academic, 2007.

Supplemental Reading (Optional):

1. Miller, L. and Stanley J. Grenz, eds. *Fortress Introduction to Contemporary Theologies*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1998.
2. Olson, Roger E. *The Journey of Modern Theology: From Reconstruction to Deconstruction*. Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press, 2013.
3. Bettenson, Henry & Chris Maunder. *Documents of the Christian Church*, 4th ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011.

Pre-Class Assignment: (4-6 pages)

This assignment consists of a written essay demonstrating engagement with key theological themes from the book: *Faith Seeking Understanding*.

- Choose four theological doctrines from Migliore's book and summarize the key themes from those doctrines.

- Explain where you stand theologically on each of the doctrines you have summarized. Do you hold to the proposed views? Why/not?
- How does your ministry experience expand, enrich, critique, or challenge the affirmations mentioned in the book?
- Provide a specific instance where you agree or disagree with a theological view and how that agreement or disagreement impacts your understanding of the practice of ministry. Please be specific here (e.g. your understanding of the church, preaching, social justice, or other.)

Format

- The assignment should take no more than 6 pages (no less than 4).
- Remember, this assignment calls for an essay. Work to synthesize the information and convey it in narrative form (i.e. do not simply create an outline or list of bullet points).
- Avoid plagiarism! If you use someone else's ideas cite your sources! Quotations should be clearly marked and sources must be noted, but work hard to interpret the material in your own voice.
- All papers should be double-spaced, typed with one-inch margins and 12-point font.
- Use footnotes to refer to books and pages you relied on for each of the above (please use Chicago Manual of Style - Turabian). Please use your own words to describe each view.
- Students should use inclusive language in their papers when referring to humans (e.g. instead of "mankind" use "humankind," "humanity," "human beings," or "persons," etc.)

The pre-class assignment constitutes 30 percent of the course final grade.

Grading Criteria: Theological analysis and reflection, ability to dialogue with the content in light of personal experience, ability to clearly support arguments.

Grade Scale: A = 90-100, B = 80-89, C = 70-79, D = 60-69, F = 59 or below